Russia Claims Magazine Shows False Picture of U. S. Negro

WASHINGTON — The current issue of America Illustrated, a magazine sent to Russia monthly by the United States Information Agency, carries a series of pictures aimed at showing the progress that the Negro of the United States has made during almost 100 years since the Emancipation Proclamation.

This fact was revealed by George Allen, director of USIA, in a television interview with Congressman Alvin M. Bentley (R.-Mich.), the USIA executive said his agency tries to counteract the Soviet lies and false propaganda about America by facing them with straight, honest truth.

This magazine, he said, helps to present "as honest a picture of the United States as human beings can make it" and to show 'what we are striving for."

UNDER THE title "Facts About the U. S. A.," this picture story points out how many Negroes are in American universities. How many own their own homes. How many own automobiles, and other statistics and facts of this kind.

But after the magazine went on the stands in Russia, said Allen, a Soviet newspaper, a youth Communist paper, came out with a blistering, full-page saying that it did not tell of Negroes being lynched.

It did not show photographs of Ku Klux Klansmen slinging a noose, or of a Negro being kicked in the face.

This is the kind of propaganda that has to be nailed down every time it appears, said the USIA director.

Bentley pointed out that the United States, perhaps, has more advertising technique and know-how than any other country of the world, therefore he wondered why we find it so hard to sell ourselves to foreign people.

He further reminded the executive officer that many people accuse America of trying to remake or reshape the entire world in its own image of American democracy and capitalism and free enterprise.

Allen replied that it was not his job to try to sell the U. S. overseas. His agency merely tries to explain what kind of people Americans are, what makes them tick, and to show that they are "decent, peaceful, hard-working, energetic and sympathetic type of people." The United States is not trying to make other people over into America's "little echo."

Research Shows Negroes Making Economic Gains

JACKSON, Miss., April 18.—Mississippi negroes, still totally segregated in most areas of public life, are making progress in their economic status.

For instance, there are 27,746 Negro farm owners in the state holding title to 1,772,414 acres of land valued at 95 million dollars here are 12,061 Negro professional and technical workers in the state.

These figures come from a study made by Hal Decell, publicity director for the state Sovereignty Commission, on "the economic status of the Negro in Mississippi." Mr. Decell did extensive research and used state, Federal and private sources in arriving at his estimates.

The study showed that Mississippi has a total work force of 716,282 persons over 14 years of age. Of these 317,411 are Negroes—227,270 males and 90,141 females.

Farm work is still the chief occupation of Negroes. The breakdown shows there are 111,629 farmers and farm managers and 61,061 farm laborers and foremen. The 27,646 farm owners, then, is a pretty good percentage of the Negro farm population, considering the history of the state.

Progress Of Negroes Shows In Land Owned

By JOHN HERBERS
United Press International

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It was not included in the study, but it might be of interest that there are more Negro farm owners in Mississippi than there are Negro voters. Most estimates list about 25,000 registered Negro Voters in the state.

Like white people, Negroes are leaving the farm for other jobs.

The study shows there are 7,217 Negro teachers in Mississipi drawing a total salary from the state of almost 19 million dollars, in addition to what they get at the local level.

In addition there are 12,061 professional and technical workers. This includes everything from accountants to dental technicians. There were no figures available for the number of Negro doctors and lawyers in the state but they have been increasng in recent years.

OTHER JOBS

Other Negro jobs classifications included craftsmen, foremen and kindred workers, 11,015; private household workers (maids etc.) 32,075; laborers 31,262; sales workers 1,839; clerical workers 1,706.

To show the picture on local levels Decll picked out some "Pertinent examples":

Lee County — 82 Negro businesses valued at 2 million dollars, 184 professional workers and 288 Negro landowners nolding 17,280 acres.

City of Greenville — 141 Negro businesses, 287 Negro landowners holding 8,610 acres.

Oktibbeha County — 17 Negro businesses, 700 Negro landowners holding 55,000 acres.

Jefferson Davis County — 27 Negro businesses, 95 professional workers, 1,800 Negro landowners holding 69,120 acres.

City of Laurel — 84 Negro businesses, 61 professional workers, 1,071 Negroes owning lots and homes.